

THE KEYSTONE 1899

IDA MARSHALL LINING, } Editors.
MARY B. POPPENHEIM, }

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Official Organ for the South Carolina Audubon Society.

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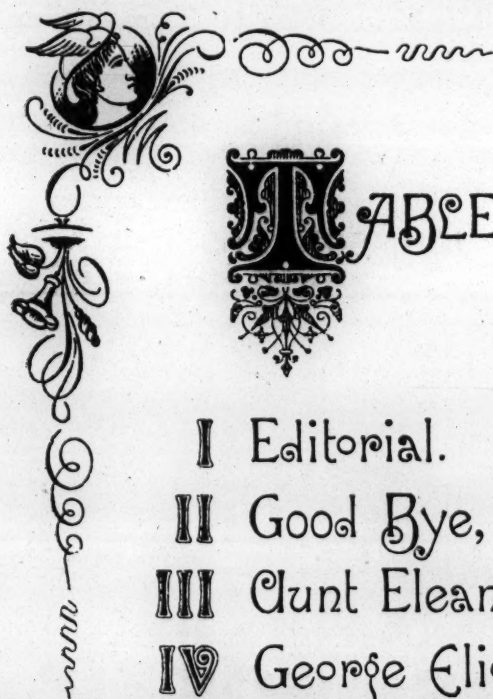


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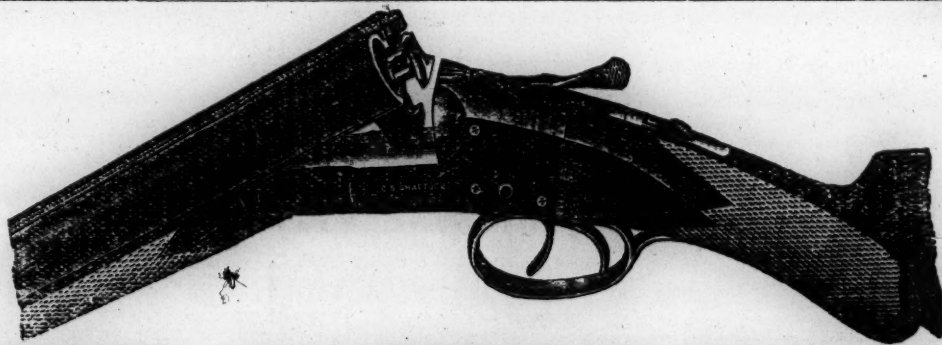
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Editorial.

AMONG the attractive features of the September Keystone will be the following:

- I. "Four Famous Southern Homes," by Emma McGahan.
- II. "A Visit to Hull House."

THE KEYSTONE welcomes with pleasure the Civics Club, of Charleston, into the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. This is the pioneer Civics Club in the State. A full account of its organization and plan of work will be found in the Club Column.

MRS. Ida M. Lining has been appointed by Governor McSweeney one of South Carolina's Lady Commissioners to the Paris Exposition.

TWENTY-EIGHT summer playgrounds, and five vacation schools, have been opened by the Philadelphia Board of Education; the former for a period of two months, and the latter for six weeks.

IT is to be hoped that the forty-two scholarships given by Converse College to the Federation of Women's Clubs will all be filled in September, by the aid of the club women of our State.

The competitive examinations held on August 1st were conducted on the same plan as that employed by many prominent women's colleges in the United States, and seemed to be the fairest way for the assignment of scholarships based on competitive examinations.

One set of questions prepared by the Faculty of Converse College, given at the same time all over the State, under the supervision of various prominent club women, and corrected and graded by the Faculty of the Institution which bestows the scholarship, certainly precludes all chances of favoritism or unfairness in the assignment of the Federation's gift to education.

COLORADO club women are justly proud of their official organ, "The Western Club Woman." It is by far the brightest and cleverest club publication in the United States. Holding this opinion, we are especially gratified in reading the following in its July issue:

"The Keystone, of South Carolina, the best publication devoted to club women in the South," and "The Keystone, of Charleston, S. C., has long been one of our most welcome exchanges, but now that it comes like a word of personal greeting from its two girl editors, it will be doubly welcome."

THE KEYSTONE is dependent on the support of the club women of South Carolina. That it has been able to maintain so high a standard of excellence in the past is due to their co-operation. In this second year of its life it is to be hoped that they will not withdraw that substantial aid which is necessary to its existence. All club women, who are not already subscribers, are earnestly requested to make an effort to keep open this avenue of communication with club work, which certainly is of vital importance to the development of their Federation.

THE N. E. A. is now a thing of the past. Charleston has kept up her record for gracious hospitality, and her guests have only good words for her. We congratulate ourselves that the teachers of Charleston, and in fact of the whole South, have shown themselves to be not in the slightest degree behind in educational progress; quite to the contrary. In some of the departments we are much ahead of anything we heard. The N. E. A. Convention will do us this much good, that we will no longer believe it of ourselves when we hear that we are "behind the times;" that we "lack special training," etc. It has been proven to us, and to those who sojourned with us, that intellectuality is peculiar to no section. Our people have now stood comparison with the best from all quarters of the United States, and they have been found in line with the best.

CLUB women should patronize the advertisers in The Keystone. It is through their co-operation that the Federation is able to support an official organ, and their interest is the interest of the Federation.

IF there ever was one special duty set aside for the feminine side of the human family, it is the "Duty of Cheerfulness." The cheerful woman radiates an atmosphere which is as exhilarating as November sunshine. She lightens the burden on the shoulders of the "bread-winner," and makes him take a more hopeful view of life.

Often it requires an immense amount of sacrifice to keep up a cheerful attitude towards life.

It is not the easiest thing in the world always to look on the bright side of things.

We do not always feel in the same mood as did the old woman who said, "My husband is dead, my son was drowned last week, my grand-children have forsaken me, my legs are crippled up with rheumatism, my sight is gone, and I have lost all my teeth except two, but, 'Praise the Lord,' those two are 'opposite' one another."

Still we can cultivate a reasonable amount of philosophical cheerfulness, and meet the grim facts of life with a smile.

It does not make them any harder for us to bear, and it may make them easier for others. Who knows we may be able to disarm a frowning Fate with a smile? If you will keep up a bold front of cheerfulness, you will be surprised how often you can persuade even your most reluctant self to see the rose colored lining to the cloud.

Nothing makes a home more attractive than an abiding spirit of cheerfulness in it, and truly we women want to make our homes the loveliest places on earth; homes where all who enter long to rest a while.

This we can do, if we will remember:

"A merry heart goes all the day,
Your sad tires in a mile—a."

MISS Mary McCullough, and Miss Mari Hofer, were among the few Kindergartners of national reputation who attended the N. E. A. Convention. The first named lady fairly scintillated with brightness and wit. The latter, charmed with the sweet voice which has made her known from sea to sea, all who had the fortune to hear her.

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

"Animis opibusque parati."

This department is official and will be continued monthly. Official news and calls of Federation Committees printed here.

List of Officers.

President—Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim, Charleston, S. C.
(31 Meeting Street.)
First Vice-President—Mrs. A. E. Smith, Rock Hill, S. C.
Second Vice-President—Mrs. A. H. Jeter, Union, S. C.
Recording Secretary—Mrs. John G. White, Chester, S. C.
Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. L. J. Blake, Spartanburg, S. C.
Treasurer—Mrs. Mary P. Gridley, Greenville, S. C.
Auditor—Mrs. C. C. Featherstone, Laurens, S. C.

Official Notice.

THE KEYSTONE having been adopted as the Official Organ of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, all official notices from the President, Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Heads of Departments will be issued in this column.

All clubs are notified to consult this column, and to consider all notices printed here as official.

Only by so doing will clubs be able to keep in touch with the entire workings of the State Federation.

LOUISA B. POPPENHEIM,

President of the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs.

PRESIDENT WILSON, of Converse College, met the President of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs and the Chairman of the Department of Education specially, on June 29th, to arrange for all the details connected with the scholarships given by Converse College to the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

The conference was highly satisfactory, and of great benefit to the Department of Education.

A notice of the examinations for these scholarships was sent to one newspaper in every County in the State.

The thanks of all club women are due the press of the State for their generosity in thus publishing free the notice sent them.

THE Evening Wisconsin, of Milwaukee, says: "The South Carolinians, like the Wisconsin members, were loyal to their State, their badges revealing the patriotism of the delegates. It was a tiny tree, woven from the South Carolina palmetto—the State tree—ornamented with the State colors. The distinguishing features of this badge were beautiful, as well as striking."

MRS. M. W. Coleman, the Ex-President of the South Carolina Federation, was in Charleston, attending the N. E. A.

If your subscription to The Keystone has expired, renew it at once, to keep in touch with Federation work in South Carolina.

Club Column.

MANAGER, MISS LOUISA B. POPPENHEIM, CHARLESTON, S. C.

All Clubs in the State are invited to send notes to this department which will be continued monthly.

Charleston.

THE Civics Club of Charleston was organized June 22nd, with thirty-six members. They have taken as their summer work the organization of a vacation playground for the poor children of Charleston. Their purpose is to keep open this playground while the public schools are closed, and endeavor to collect in a pleasant yard, full of all sorts of games and amusements, the children who would otherwise be playing in the streets. The playground will be open every afternoon from five o'clock until seven, and will be in charge of two members of the club, who will play with the children, teach them new games, and above all try to implant in them that idea of honest dealing which is the foundation stone towards good citizenship.

There will be occasional trolley rides, trips to the museum and seashore, where the children may study Nature at her best.

The club has started with only one playground, but hopes next summer to establish them in the different parts of the city, where they may be more easily reached. Benches will be furnished for the mothers who bring their children too small to come alone, and toys and a heap of sand with buckets and spades will be furnished for their amusement.

A loan doll will be one of the features, and each little girl will be allowed to have her one night, and return her the next day, until she has visited the homes of all the little girls.

The members are all enthusiastic, and we are in hopes that other committees will take it up, and make the summer a pleasure for the little ones.

The following officers were elected:

President—Miss Christie H. Poppenheim.

Vice-President—Miss Daisie P. Smith.

Recording Secretary—Miss E. Klinck.

Corresponding Secretary—Miss S. G. Rose.

Treasurer—Miss Rebe Frost.

First Director—Miss Agnes Strohecker.

Second Director—Miss May Waring.

Third Director—Mrs. Ida M. Lining.

At the last meeting the club decided to apply to the Federation for admission.

Rock Hill.

THE Perihelion Club met with Mrs. A. E. Smith, the President, on the 21st of June. The meeting was called to order by the President, the minutes then read by the Secretary, after which Shakespeare's play, "All's Well that Ends Well," was discussed.

A synopsis of the play by Mrs. W. B. Wilson was read, and quotations selected by each member of the club. An essay on the "Ku-Klux" concluded the literary part of the program.

Printed pamphlets sent out by the Women's Auxiliary to the New York Civil Service Reform Association, were distributed among the members by the President, offering prizes to club women writing the best essays on the subject of "Civil Service Reform."

No further business being on hand, the meeting adjourned.

Mrs. W. B. STEELE, JR., Corresponding Secretary.

Good-Bye.

"GOOD-BYE!" the words were lightly spoken,
O were they just as lightly meant?
Did your heart feel not e'en a fleeting pang
Of pain, because some tie was broken?

Which will it be—a smile or a sigh,
Shall rise to your lips, when midst other scenes
The past comes back and you think once more
Of the night you lightly said "Good-Bye!"
—SUE SAVAGE FARROW.

Aunt Eleanor.

BY M. J. T.

"OH, Aunt Eleanor, I am so glad to be here with you, and to see something real again. I am very tired of my life. It all seems such a make-believe and sham. I am tired of balls and receptions, where even the smiles are false, and where the words and dresses are all set to the one same tune of fixed rules and etiquette. So, Auntie, I left it all, and came away to you, where I could hear the crickets sing, and the music of the frogs, and learn contentment from looking into your dear old peaceful face."

Aunt Eleanor looked up from her knitting into the fair face of the young girl; it was a very young and lovely face to be saying such things. Felicia sat leaning far back in the big arm chair, with her arms stretched above her head, gazing into the fire, and her dark brown eyes looked into the coals with a deep, wistful longing, as if searching for something in their glowing depths.

"Aunt Eleanor, I ought to be happy. I have all the world calls happiness—wealth and beauty—but my money has never brought me any real love. Of course I know many men who call themselves my lovers, but I do not want a few honeyed words, clothed in the fashion of the day, one or two stiff drives in the park, and then a marriage, where the heart is untouched by any thought of real love, the soul unshaken by deep passion; without impulse, and as cold, hard and unresponsive as the heaps of gold and silver wedding presents. I mean love that cannot be bought. Love that links soul to soul, that time and absence cannot change. A love that will sacrifice itself, that ennobles and colors all in life, and in suffering and adversity grows stronger. A love that in its purity and depth lifts us higher than mere common earthly passions. Love that makes men do great and noble things, and makes women true and tender. A heart that sees no weakness in loving, and finds its greatest happiness in being loved. Oh, Aunt Eleanor, some old fashion love. Do you think there is any left in the world, and that I can find it? Has Cupid let his little darts get dull, or is the heart of the world so hard and crusted over with egotism and love of gold, that his arrows all bound back, and do not even leave a mark?"

Felicia stretched out her arms with a passionate gesture, and looked up with eager, questioning eyes.

Aunt Eleanor laid down her knitting, and a faint color came into her old face, as she said, "Fay, dear, I shall tell you a story. I have never told it to many, for it is sacred,

but Fay, it will tell you of a love that is as true and undying as that you speak of."

She unlocked a cabinet, and took from it a small, old, hair-covered trunk, the very look of which told that it held some sacred memory. Aunt Eleanor's eyes had a tender light, and her hands trembled as she held the dear relics of her life. It was like lifting the curtain of the past, when she raised the lid. There was a faint musty odor, but it was a sweet smell to her, for it brought with it a rush of fond memories. There was a curious collection of things; worthless they looked, and yet no gold could have bought them.

There were a few faded, yellow letters, a white cross all tattered and torn, a badge of honor of some kind, which had been torn by a bullet, and also two or three old brass cadet buttons.

"These things will tell the story of my life," said Aunt Eleanor, and she took up an old daguerreotype, with a golden curl pinned in the case. The picture was so dim that you could scarcely see the outline of the face.

"Ah, Fay, when that was taken, life was sweet, and hopes were great. My white hair was once those golden, clustering curls in the picture. Arthur carried it for thirty years in his breast; far away to India and Egypt, he took it with him.

Arthur and I loved each other dearly, but he was only a private in the Queen's army, and I was an orphan, and lived with my uncle. Arthur and I were very young and full of hope, and meant to marry as soon as he was able.

"His regiment was sent to India. The parting nearly broke our hearts, but we said good-bye bravely. I gave Arthur this white cross. He said he would always wear it next his heart, and he cut off the right arm of the cross, and gave it to me to keep, as a sign that nothing but death should keep him from bringing his cross back to me to be united, and we promised to be true, and never to doubt each other, whatever happened.

Arthur had not been gone two months when my uncle died, and I was left alone. I do not know what would have become of me but for an American lady, who was a friend of mine. I had a good education, so I came with her to this country as a governess in your grandmother's family. I thought that I should never see Arthur again, so I wrote to him to tell him where I was going, and to say good-bye.

"My life in this country was as happy as I could expect. Your people were very kind to me; I soon became like one of the family, and my pupils learned to call me Aunt, but with all this I was sometimes very lonely. I could only hear from Arthur very seldom, but his letters were full of unchanging love and hope; they were noble, brave letters, and helped me to be true, and bear my life.

"Eight years passed, and no thought of another man had entered my life. Then there came a long, unbroken silence, and my letters to Arthur were unanswered. I never doubted him, though this uncertainty was cruel, but I kept saying to myself, 'he is not dead, and he will come back.'"

[To be continued.]

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This department is official and will be continued monthly.
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First Vice-President—Dr. Robert Wilson, Charleston, S. C.
Second Vice-President—Miss Kate Bachman, Charleston, S. C.
Secretary—Miss Sarah A. Smyth, Charleston, S. C.
Treasurer—Miss Mary C. Townsend, Edisto Island, S. C.

Official Notice.

AT the first regular meeting of the South Carolina Audubon Society, January 4th, 1900, The Keystone was adopted as the official organ of the Society. All members are urged to make use of this medium, as all the official notices will be contained in it.

CHRISTIE H. POPPENHEIM,
President,
South Carolina Audubon Society.

Summer Reading for Audubons.

THE following books are especially recommended for summer reading to all bird lovers: "The Kentucky Cardinal, by James Lane Allen; "Bob, the Story of a Mocking Bird," by Sidney Lanier; Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner;" Shelley's "Ode to the Skylark;" and "Bird Neighbors," by Neltje Blanchon. To the young Audubons, "Stories from Birdland," by Annie Chase, is especially interesting. Of course most of us have already read these books, but a second reading, this time looking at the world from the birds point of view, will bring out many beauties hitherto unnoticed.

George Eliot.

TO give an adequate idea of a character as complex as George Eliot's would require volumes. It would be necessary, first, to study the Nineteenth Century, in which she lived, the advance it has made in science, its agnostic philosophy, its realistic tendencies; it would be necessary, also, to know the details of her early home life, her friendships, and the books she read, for it is all these things that make us what we are.

Within the limited scope of this paper, however, it will be possible only to touch upon some of the most prominent events of her life, and to suggest some of the distinctive traits which characterize a remarkable personality.

Of outward events her life had few. She shunned rather than courted publicity, and there is nothing to satisfy those who look for exciting narratives in biography.

The interest will be found to lie chiefly in the records of her mind. Her entire life as a child is described with great detail in the chapters on Maggie Tulliver's Childhood, from "The Mill on the Floss."

The Red Deeps, the scene of Maggie's spiritual awakening, were near her own home, and had evidently been a favorite haunt of the real Maggie in childhood. Also the churches and villages described in the "Scenes of Clerical Life," are drawn from her own intimate experiences.

In an article on George Eliot, in a contemporary magazine, it is stated that the scenery of incidents of her early stories are hung on facts well known in the Warwickshire neighborhood where she lived.

Her father, who was a master carpenter, was able to give his daughter a good education. A fellow-pupil, while she was at a boarding school in Coventry, gives these reminiscences of Marian's life there:

"She learned everything with ease, but was passionately devoted to music, and became a thoroughly accomplished pianist. She was keenly susceptible to what she thought was her lack of personal beauty, frequently saying she was not pleased with a single feature of her face. The charm of her conversation was so great, that there was continued strife among the girls as to which of them should walk with her. The teachers had to settle it by making it depend upon alphabetical succession."

At the age of fifteen her mother died, and she left one school at Coventry, henceforth to continue her studies alone.

During several years of quiet, continuous study, she laid the foundation of that accurate, wide-reaching knowledge which was so notable a feature of her life and work. This accuracy is a distinctive trait which marks and sets her apart from other women. Women are charged, and justly so I think, with the sin of inaccuracy, due probably to the fact that many of us do no actual studying after the school days are over, but content ourselves with reading what is more or less desultory.

Another distinctive trait of George Eliot's character was her unusual interest in religious matters. Many of us, through mere mental laziness, are content to sit down and take a mild satisfaction in the fact that our mother's faith and our father's politics are good enough for us.

George Eliot was not content to let others do her thinking for her; at first a rigid Calvinist, she gradually began to grow skeptical about her religious belief. She had no love of mere doubt, but wanted to get at facts; as one of her friends said: "It was her eagerness for positive knowledge which made her an unbeliever."

The spiritual struggles of Maggie Tulliver give a good picture of George Eliot's mental experiences at this time. Her friends and relatives were scandalized by her skepticism. Her father could not sympathize with her changed views, and treated her harshly. She found friends, however, who gave her the encouragement she needed. In one family especially, that of Mr. Charles Bray, did she find the true, cordial friendship she desired, and they also did much to soften the growing discord of her own family.

Emerson, Froude, Robert Mackay, and other men of mark, were at various times guests at Mr. Bray's house, while George Eliot was there.

Many a time men of thought and research might have been seen pacing up and down the lawn, discussing all things in heaven and earth, and listening with marked attention when one gentle woman's voice uttered what they were sure had been well matured before the lips opened. One rare characteristic gave a peculiar charm to her conversation. She had no petty egotism, no spirit of contradiction; she never talked for effect. It would be interesting right here to quote what she herself says relative to the desirable results of a higher education for women:

"A really cultured woman," says she, "like a really cultured man, is all the simpler and less obtrusive for her knowledge; it has made her see herself, and her opinions, in something like just proportions; she does not make it a

pedestal from which she flatters herself she commands a complete view of men and things. She does not write books to confound philosophers. In conversation, she is the least formidable of women, because she understands you without wanting to make you aware that you can't understand her. She does not give you information—which is the raw material of culture—she gives you sympathy, which is its subtlest essence."

George Eliot had a strong leaning towards philosophical speculations; she accepted many of the boldest speculations of the agnostic science of the time, though she modified them greatly to meet the needs of her own mind and heart.

It was related of her that in parting with one of the greatest English poets, probably Tennyson, when he said to her, "Well, good-bye, you and your molecules," she replied, "I am quite content with my molecules."

It is difficult to reconcile the bold scepticism which her biographers attribute to her, with many references in her works which seem to indicate her personal religious attitude. It is easy to see how she found the idea of a personal God dwelling in a localized heaven, morally and logically impossible. If we believe in a personal God, taking an active hand in the affairs of men, what is to become of man's free agency?

This is a beautiful inconsistency, which it would be hard to reconcile. I fancy those who cling desperately by the little finger to old religious traditions which they don't dare investigate, find quite as many hard nuts to crack, as those who look a trifle into the why's and wherefor's.

God is Being—not a Being. For man's crimes, hypocrisy and egotism, man alone is responsible; for his triumphs and successes, his good deeds and his altruisms, he is to be congratulated on giving expression to the Divinity within him, not in securing the favor of a God that dwells without.

George Eliot goes even further than this, however; further than probably any of us here would care to keep pace with her. She rejects the immortality of the soul, as you and I understand it. Soul, she thinks, may go on living forever, but the integrity of each individual soul is not maintained in the hereafter.

For a woman as dependent as George Eliot, on the love and esteem of those about her, it must have required great moral boldness to take this uncompromising stand on matters theological, when she knew by so doing, that she would antagonize many whom she counted as friends.

Lest this paper give the impression that George Eliot was first and foremost, an abstruse metaphysician, it would be well to turn from her philosophy, with which we sympathize but partly, and consider her as a novelist, a field wherein she commands the admiration of us all.

Had she never written a page of fiction, she would have been regarded as a woman of deep thought and varied knowledge, such as men complacently believe to be the possession only of men. It was not this, however, which made her a great novelist. Her eyes were not turned inward, or kept down in metaphysical contemplation. She studied the living world around her. She is the only novelist who can paint such English people as the Poyssers and Tullivers as they really are. She looks into the very souls of such people, tracing out their slow, peculiar, mental processes.

There never could have been, and never was a Mark Tapley, or a Sam Weller; we put up with such impossibilities because they are so amusing, so full of fantastic humor. But Mrs. Poyser lives, and every one, if she harks back into her own experience, can find an Aunt Glegg.

George Eliot does not caricature folly with Dickens, or laugh at weakness with Thackeray, but shows us the limitations of life in such a way as to produce the finest humor. She laughs at all, but sneers at none—for she has keen sympathy with all. Her humor is much finer than her satire, which is a trifle labored, as may be seen from the following quotation, though the point is certainly well taken:

"When a man is happy enough to win the affections of a sweet girl, who can soothe his cares with crochet, and respond to all his most cherished ideas with beaded urn-rugs and tidies in German wool, he has, at least, a guarantee of domestic comfort, whatever trials may await him out of doors."

In her earlier works George Eliot has shown the artistic possibilities of the humblest lives and situations. She has shown that dramatic situations and heroic attitudes are not necessary to a novelist. Her's are heart tragedies and spiritual histories.

One of the finest characters in all her books is Adam Bede, a workman of limited education, and little knowledge of the outside world.

George Eliot was an intense realist, but a realist such as Victor Hugo. When picturing the sensual side of life, she brings into these "swampy, malarial districts" a keen, womanly sympathy, whereas, with James and Howells, we feel they study that side of life critically, in order to construct a novel.

Many claim that Adam Bede has pleased a larger number of readers, than any of her other books. The doctrine of retribution is presented distinctly and positively in this book, as in many subsequent ones. The folly of Arthur and the vanity of Hetty work them terrible consequences of evil, and many others are made to suffer with them. This law is the pivotal moral on which the story turns, and is voiced by Paron Irwine in these words:

"There is no sort of wrong deed of which a man can bear the punishment alone; you can't isolate yourself and say that the evil in you shall not spread. Men's lives are so thoroughly blended with each other, that evil spreads as readily as disease."

In regard to "The Mill on the Floss," there is probably as much diversity of opinion as it would be possible to imagine. Ruskin says of it that, "the personages are picked up from behind the counter and out of the gutter, and he finds not a person in the book who deserves a line of printer's type in their description."

Swinburne also, in referring to Maggie's relations to Stephen Guest, deplors the "hideous transformation by which Maggie is debased." However, that real life contains just such errors, can't be doubted, and George Eliot never paints ideals. She shows what a passionate, yearning, impulsive nature will often do when surrounded by dull conditions.

A critic has said of George Eliot, that "all her characters are greater than their deeds; their inward life is truer than their outward life is pure."

The idea which George Eliot does develop in the life of Maggie, is the value of self-renunciation in the development of character.

This same idea is preached into us in the delineation of Romola. The constant reiteration of this theory in her books forces us to look into it. Are the highest natures the results of suffering and sorrow? Can't joy be turned to spiritual account, as well? Is there no place in the world for solid satisfaction?

According to Robert Browning, we must struggle, but it is worth while. According to George Eliot, every one is

bound to suffer; life is as hard as it can be. Therefore forget yourself. Live for others. But where are we to get the inspiration to do all this?

She doesn't seem to point to something after death. Why, then, resist all our inborn instincts? Asceticism for its own sake is certainly not inspiring.

It has been said that whatever differences exist between George Eliot's earlier and later novels, are due to the materials used rather than to any change in methods.

In *Romola* we find again the same ethical ideas relative to renunciation and moral retribution. The book is said to be a most accurate picture of Florentine life in the fifteenth century. The author's object in this work is apparently to contrast Savonarola, actuated by the spirit of self-denial, with Tito Melema, led only by self-love and personal gratification; in other words, altruism versus individualism.

In *Middlemarch*, George Eliot seeks to illustrate how high and noble impulses are balked and hindered by the social conditions in which we live. Lydgate is a physician of rare ability, who earnestly desires to broaden his learning and investigations, for the purpose of alleviating human suffering, but is hampered by the reproaches of a vain, selfish wife, who considers herself abused and defrauded if he spends his spare moments in scientific research.

The reader of George Eliot's novels never assumes a middle attitude toward them—he either accepts them enthusiastically, or not at all. To the reader who wants a book which arouses a feverish interest, compelling him to read the last chapters first, George Eliot's novels will not appeal.

Those who feel more interest in what people do than in what they feel or think, will find Wilkie Collins more to their mind. Those, on the other hand, who delight in subtle character analysis, will take keen delight in following the development of George Eliot's creations.

A reader of her books gains a keener understanding of human nature and a broader sympathy for its foibles and shortcomings.

Before closing, a few words should be said relative to her marriage, an event which presents one of the curious ethical problems of literature. Her own teaching condemns it—her life approves it. Social sanction was withheld. At an early age Mr. Lewis had married a woman with great charm of face and manner. She shortly after left his home in company with another man. She soon repented. Mr. Lewis forgave her, and received her back. A second time she left him, but because he had once received her back, he could not secure a divorce, according to the laws of England at that time.

When Mr. Lewis afterwards met Marian Evans, there was from the first a strong mental attraction, each seeming to stimulate the genius of the other. Since they could not be legally married, they agreed to dispense with that formality, regarding the union as sacred, however, and of binding and permanent character. Most civilized nations regard the formal acceptance of the marriage relation before the world as a sufficient form. Of course from the highest ethical standpoint such a marriage is wrong. The social laws are framed to secure the greatest good to the greatest number, and though they may press hard upon a certain individual at a certain time, it is his duty to obey them—the individual good must be subordinated to the general good.

That this marriage helped both to a more perfect work and a truer life, however, cannot be denied. She restrained, ennobled and purified his life and thought. He stimulated and directed her genius into its true channel, and gave her

the inspiration which enabled her to pursue her work.

Before assuming too critical an attitude toward George Eliot as a woman, let us think over a statement of George W. Cable's:

"What loathing many heap upon certain things, without reference to the spirit with which they are accompanied, and upon which their nobility or baseness depends."

—ELOÏSE C. CARPENTER.

A Vassar Enterprise in Atlanta's Schools.

VASSAR women are proverbially loyal and patriotic.

Perhaps they never forget the Greek spirit of joy and beauty in the college, the physical and mental zest of living, the gaily gowned little figures who wander between dinner and chapel, over the green campus, and mingle both of basket-ball and tennis with hated arguments on Shakespeare's exception of the Tragic Hero.

Whatever its cause may be, the Vassar girl is loyal, and her loyalty takes one unfailing form: "We must do something to help the college, to make the Vassar influence felt in our community."

This is illustrated again and again, as it is just now by a little story which comes from Atlanta.

Three years ago last September, the Vassar forces in Atlanta consisted of one graduate, and possibly half a dozen sophomores and freshmen. They met one day and formed a Vassar Club, with the avowed object of "furthering the interests of Vassar in the South." The object was carried out with a true, missionary zeal. Several little receptions and luncheons were given; timid aspirants for college joys were invited, with their mothers; the zeal of the aspirants was quickened by college blue-prints and college yarns; the mothers were immediately informed that Vassar had an infirmary, two physicians, trained nurses, and a telegraph office; also that epidemics were most infrequent, and that no student, even from the South, had ever frozen to death.

As a result of this policy, the club grew, and last June its members faced the encouraging fact that they had "several" Vassar graduates—about half a dozen, in fact.

Now, half a dozen Vassar girls are as a legion of ordinary mortals in point of enterprise and public spirit. So these six, and the undergraduates, sat them down, and meditated as to how they could be most profitable to the community.

One of the members of the club had taught in the city night school, and she suggested that this would be a profitable field for work. Most of the pupils of the school were newsboys and factory hands, with a goodly sprinkling of foreigners; a majority of them lived in the suburbs, and, though living on hurried six o'clock breakfasts and odd luncheons, had no time to go home for supper before school, and on cold winter nights they were adrift in the streets from the end of work time until seven; when the school began.

It was very touching to hear of boys and full grown men working, after a hard day's labor, without supper until 10 o'clock, in order to secure the education which had been denied them.

Indeed, as the tireless little President of the Vassarites said: "My heart goes out to a boy who'll work all day, and then try to get an education at night. He's plucky."

So the club decided to help these boys, and when the school opened in the fall, their plans were formed. They appealed to the Board of Education for the use of a large, vacant room in the night school, and this was generously granted

them. Then they equipped this as a supper and reading room. A big screen hid a gas stove in a corner; a long table was covered with white oil cloth for the lunch counter; camp stools served for seats; and a cashier's table was secured. Curtains were hung in the corridors, and magazines and games placed on smaller tables. Then the club secured a model matron, who presided in the room, and with the assistance of a colored maid, also did the cooking and serving.

Thus equipped, the room was turned over to the boys. They were told that it was to be their own club room; that any night school boy who desired it, could use the games and magazines for an hour each day before the school opened, and that supper could be procured each night by tickets purchased from the treasurer—which position the principal of the school very kindly offered to fill. The supper was a very simple one, of soup, milk, bread, potatoes and fruit, and the articles were sold separately, so that the possessor of only a cent could get a glass of milk and some bread, while the spender of five cents enjoyed the complete bill of fare.

All the equipment, the fuel, and the light were given to the club, and the members of the club bore the expense of the matron and servant. It was intended to make the boys pay the actual cost of the ingredients served. This was not completely realized in the first experiment year, but it would have been entirely possible in a larger school. The boys paid for everything they ate, except the suppers for Thanksgiving and Christmas—these were "treats," to which all the school was invited. And they came, radiantly happy and perfectly silent in their devotion to the feast. One little boy was awestruck at tasting "real jelly;" another when asked whether he had enough, replied concisely, but pathetically, "Yes'm for once."

At least one thing grew out of the work which its founders had not anticipated; for several friends of the school arranged a charmingly illustrated travel lecture, over which the boys went wild, and they have promised to arrange a little lecture course.

The irregular attendance of the school—its greatest difficulty was improved by the possibility of obtaining supper there; the tables of games were very popular indeed, and the improvements in the boys' manners was marked. But best of all, the boys realized through personal visits of the Vassarites and their friends, that people in the city were interested in them, and in their struggles for an education, and their expressions of gratitude for this were really very touching; so touching as to more than repay the college people for the little work and worry which the plan had cost.

This is only a little enterprise, and but one of hundreds which are being carried on everywhere by Vassar women in their loyalty to the college and its ideals—the beauty of thought, and the sympathy, the helpfulness and comradeship which comes from increased knowledge.

EMMA L. GARRETT.



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to all lovers of pure Teas, it is guaranteed to be the best 50c. Tea in America. Makes a delicious Iced Tea.

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Dots from the N. E. A.

WE had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Mary Murray, Representative of the "Kindergarten Review," and her friend, Miss Osgood. Both ladies are Kindergartners. They have made friends for themselves and the "Review" in Charleston.

MISS Waldo, of New Orleans, was among our distinguished visitors. Miss Waldo has charge of the Normal Kindergarten work of the public schools. She is a woman of fine ability and deep culture.

MISS Brown, of New Orleans, gave a fine address before the Child Study Department. Her subject was, "Is there a Nationality Problem in our Schools?" Her paper proved that there is.

MADAME Kraus-Boelte won all who met her by her sweet motherliness, and her gracious manner. She has left many friends in Charleston.

WE have also had the pleasure of entertaining Mrs. Nellie G. Storey, of Macon, Ga., and Miss Rietta Boatwright, of Monetta, S. C. Both ladies are Kindergartners. Mrs. Storey has charge of the Free Kindergarten work in Macon, and in connection a training class for Kindergartners. Miss Boatwright has done good work in the Aiken Graded School.

MRS. W. B. S. Heyward, President of the South Carolina Kindergarten Association, gave an address of welcome at the opening session of the Kindergarten Department. This Association was highly honored by having Miss Evelyn Holmes elected President of the Kindergarten Department of the N. E. A. These are well deserved compliments to club women.

A BRIGHT, newsy club monthly, called The Keystone, comes from Charleston, S. C.—The Woman's Journal, Boston.

The Belgian Hare.

THE Belgian hare is exceedingly domestic in its nature, doing well in small boxes in back yards or dry cellars. They are very neat. They require little food, eating oats, wheat, hay and trimmings of garden vegetables. The meat is exceedingly sweet, and of a delicious flavor. The Belgian hare is very prolific; at the age of four months it will dress from four to five pounds of elegant meat. The Belgian hare business is especially adapted for the employment of women.

It requires very little capital, and is a most interesting business. We call attention to the advertisement of the Lawndale Belgian Hare Company in this issue.

THE KEYSTONE wants agents in every town in the State. A liberal discount allowed agents. Write for terms.

Welcome to the Art Teachers of the N. E. A., at
South Carolina Hall, July 11, 1900.

FRIENDS from the North, the South, the East, and the West, we stretch out our hands in glad welcome to you to-day.

In behalf of the Charleston Art Club, I greet you each one with keen pleasure. We are proud to meet and know so able a body of art lovers and art instructors as is represented by you, the members of the Department of Art Education of the National Educational Association.

Our ranks, owing to the summer season and other causes, are small, for the greater part of the club is out of the city. Those who remain, however, will endeavor to atone with kindly hospitality and warmth of feeling—to say nothing of warmth of weather—for our lack of numbers.

Our club room, where one may spend pleasant hours poring over art magazines and books, or sipping a quiet cup of tea, is taking a siesta until October.

To-night the club hopes to see you at a reception, where they will have the pleasure of greeting you personally, and becoming acquainted with you, each one in turn.

Charleston opens wide her gates to receive you. This river-embraced, sea-swept city possesses many points of historic interest, and there are picturesque nooks and corners galore, which will appeal to the eye artistic.

Go down to our Battery (where good Charlestonians go when they die, it is said,) when the moon is flooding the bay, softening the stern outlines of Fort Sumter, known in song and story; see how the forms of the out-lying cotton islands have melted into the sea, out on the dim horizon.

The old buildings and churches, the quaint, narrow streets, the overhanging balconies, the fragrant, shadowy gardens, are all transformed by the hands of this enchantress. Truly, "she poetizes everything!"

Look at the tiled roofs of bygone days, when the sunshine falls upon them, and converts them into silver. Watch the swaying of a palmetto tree, the emblem of our State, and listen to the wind melodies through its emerald fans. Do not these form subjects enough to stir one's emotions to paint?

Alfred Stevens declares that, "Painting is Nature seen through the prism of an emotion."

You who transfix upon your canvas a sunset of purple and gold, or the soft mystery of the silver haze of a grey day, can understand the full force of this. No great and good work is ever achieved unless the fibres of a man's being are moved to their very depths.

Although you come among us to-day, many for the first time, we do not think of you as strangers, but as friends. There is a strong bond of sympathy between us, by the very nature of our work. You are striving to lift the thoughts of the youth of our land to an appreciation and love of the Good, the True, and the Beautiful.

You are teaching them the ennobling and uplifting influence of art, and that "a thing of beauty is a joy forever."

We, in a modest way, are pursuing the same lines in Charleston, by the precepts of our art teachers, and the semi-annual exhibitions of our Art Club. We can clasp hands in a friendly grasp in full accord with the aims and aspirations of each other.

We trust that your visit to us will be a happy one, and that you will never regret the cry that sounded at Los Angeles

one year ago—"On to Charleston!" The days spent among us, we hope, will in after years come to you as some sweet, musical strain, or the delicious fragrance of some loved flower.

When you have returned to your respective homes, after your sojourn in our quiet Southern city, we pray you to paint our portraits to hang in Memory's gallery, with the brush of—

"A flattering painter who made it his care,
To paint men as they ought to be, not as they are!"

—AZALEA HOWARD WILLIS.

Chairman Art Department,
S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs.

A Prominent Southern Publishing House.

AMONG the exhibits at the Hibernian Hall during the N. E. A., the B. F. Johnson Publishing Company had a conspicuous place, and always attracted large crowds. The gentlemen in charge were most courteous, and ready to answer all inquiries.

The President of this company, Mr. B. F. Johnson, was honorably recognized by the N. E. A. in having him deliver an address at the Religious Education Department. He is now in Europe, studying the problems of industrial education on the other side, so as to bring their best methods to this country.

Only a short time ago this publishing house received a telegram from General MacArthur ordering \$2,500 worth of Carnefix's Charts and Primers, for use in the public schools in the Philippines. They are acknowledged throughout the world as the best adapted arrangements ever prepared for teaching the English language.

This publishing house has had a most successful year in all its departments. The work they have planned for the coming year should certainly appeal to all Southern educators. English classics for study and reading, edited by prominent Southern specialists. This wide awake, progressive firm requests those interested in educational matters to send to the Richmond office of the company any original paper whose publication and distribution would assist in the educational upbuilding of the South. Among those who have responded to this appeal are Mabie, in his "Literature in the South," Charles W. Kent, in his "Revival of Interest in Southern Letters," and Ed. Bok, in his "National Crime at the Feet of American Parents." Such material as this will certainly open the eyes of every reader to the field of literature existing in the South.

Too much praise cannot be given this Southern Publishing House, and our Southern people should see that its books are well patronized.

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Reasons for the Growth of Women's Clubs.

[N the April Keystone the question was asked: "What is the attraction which causes women to give themselves so enthusiastically to club work?"

The following answers have been received at this office. This question is still open for discussion in the pages of The Keystone.

Dear Keystone:—

"What is the attraction which causes women to give themselves so enthusiastically to club work?" may be answered in many ways, but the most striking, and at the same time the most pathetic side of the question to me, is this:

In the struggle for daily bread the average American man has given his days to the getting of material things. Ideas and theories on life do not bring in substantial returns in dollars and cents, so he brushes them aside with a sweep of his hand. His wife, daughters and sisters are reared in luxury, and have time to read, to think, and to wonder why? When they do not find congenial discussion in the home circle on these questions, they look about, and lo! there is a little circle of kindred spirits, "a club." To join this charmed circle, means to have a chance to talk about ideas that are burnings in their hearts, and do you wonder that the exultation derived from the intercourse with thoughtful, earnest women is eagerly sought for?

Any woman would prefer talking to a clever man, instead of a clever woman, all things being equal, but will she stay away from the companionship of clever women, if the inducement is only a dull man?

Let our men brush up their energies, and be entertaining, and women will desert their clubs for them at once.

—MRS. A. L. G.

The club movement is another name for the "Awakening of a Public Conscience," and women are always the most conscientious part of the human family.

—ANON.

The Keystone has asked the question, "What is the cause of the rapid growth of the club?"

The club owes its rapid growth to the rapidly increasing army of "spinsters." Women who have no children to take care of, and no husband to manage, or manage them, are seeking for platforms from which to declaim their views on mankind in general. The rank and file of club women are made up of those women who, after years of married life, have reached that stage when they really have no minds of their own, and after patient struggles, have arrived at the conclusion that every one's opinion is right but theirs; this state being produced by their husband's constant remarks of "women are always wrong."

These, induced by the energetic spinster, enter club life, where they are led so to speak by the nose, and are only used as the steps to fame for their freer and more thoughtful sister.

True the married woman is sometimes the president or even the organizer of a club, but you may be sure that if you look closely you will find that she is really a puppet in the hands of some woman whom gentle custom now calls a new woman, instead of an old maid.

—G. R. M.,
Asheville, N. C.

Since The Keystone has asked the question, "What is the attraction which causes women to give themselves so enthusiastically to club work?" I will express my opinion on the subject, in hopes that it may cause some woman to see herself as she really is.

There are in all communities certain women who have social aspirations, which are not satisfied by the sewing society, the ice cream sociable, and the Sunday School picnic. They would improve their social position, and where better can this be accomplished than in that democratic arena, "The Club."

There, whether the purpose of the organization be philanthropic or literary women of all classes meet for conference and discussion, and Mrs. Nobody has a chance to exchange ideas with Mrs. Somebody.

That this exchange of club amenities may ever be of any service to Mrs. Nobody in her social struggles, is a debatable question, but I rather think it is.

—SELMA LYTTLETON.

Woman's Part in the Civil Service Reform.

THE varied temperaments and interests of mankind render it necessary that there should be some accepted form of law for their regulation and protection. This necessity is substantiated by the historical order of the establishment of different forms of government.

The monarchical form of government has existed longer and been more popular than any other.

The Saxon Kings of Britain limited the royal power by a supreme council of their wise men and sages.

The principles of good government were better established by the Norman Kings when they established a parliament. But the most liberal form of administering civil rights was conceived by the British Colonies in America.

Living among the forests of the New World, its stupendous cataracts, lofty mountains, rushing streams, and the music and motion of natural life, they imbibed a spirit of independence which caused men to cast their eyes inward for plans of self-government.

The Constitution of the United States was framed by Revolutionary veterans, to provide against difficulties which had already existed, and those which might arise in the future. Puritan and Huguenot dived deep into the moral law to bring up from its treasures those principles which ought to govern the lives of men. The Articles of the Constitution invest every citizen with the dignity of representation, which makes him feel his power as a unit; it secures to him the right to accumulate property, and protects him in the possession of it, which creates a confidence in the pursuit of the useful avocations of life, and spreads over the continent expressions of wealth, energy and intelligence. The security to life and esteem makes the lowliest cot a castle, and opens to the humblest the path to distinction.

With liberties so broad, and protection so safe, the United States has had an unparalleled era of progress and prosperity, and there is no estimate to be placed on the degree of advancement to man and society, if the spirit of liberty could remain unchecked by personal ambition and selfishness.

These evils are abroad with such force in high places, that new and unnecessary offices have been created for the ebullition. Men are not always elected with a view to their fitness for official positions. Favoritism, partizanship, bribery in

money and promises, have all linked themselves together to confuse and dispel the honest convictions of men. The ballot box is no longer a register of patriotic sentiments; the senate chamber creaks with the stealthy tread of the avaricious; the courts of justice will not hear all men alike.

The cry of "reform" has often cheered the hopes of the faithful and true-hearted, but men's promises of reform so far have been only a guaranty that the people will be called upon for additional finances to be squandered in the public offices, and to suffer a graver disappointment in the fidelity of their representatives.

The question of the era is, "Who shall fathom the cause of this great moral depravity in the civil service, and administer the remedy?" "Does the quick perception of woman fail to see that individual lives make up the nation, and that it is through her training that honor or shame shall mark the career of our officials?"

Woman's mission in life is character building. Laying aside biological proclivities, it is a perfectly plastic being that is entrusted to her moulding, possessed of a curious essence whose development she cannot know only as it expresses itself by external signs. Every impression it receives is from some expression of herself, and that expression which contends most persistently for the mastery is to predominate. It is at the door of the thoughtless, neglectful and crooked woman that we are to lay the mournful fact that truthfulness is fast disappearing from the play-ground, and social, business and political circles.

It is on the shoulders of the indulgent, irresolute and vicious woman that we are to place that disregard for properly constituted authority which destroys the harmony of the home, the school, the commonwealth. It is to the account of the idle, frivolous and impatient woman that we are to place that absence of honorable purpose, and that love of pleasure which demands indulgence, when a division of duty would lighten the burden of all, and teach a generous regard for the rights of others.

This is the primary sphere in which woman is to work for reform in the civil service. To send out from the home sons and daughters whose firm, moral structure is equal to their intellectual and physical culture.

Physical motherhood often claims a dignity of which it is unworthy. The impressiveness of spiritual motherhood is for all good women, and its love and watchfulness are boundless. Combined efforts in behalf of the Kindergarten show their interest in humanity, and their noble desire to diffuse generally the benefits which were previously accessible only to the few.

Our Government recognizes the majority in all matters of public interest. How short-sighted then, is that citizen who does not advocate the education of all!

But endurance has ceased to be a virtue. The present demands that "spoils" must cease, and "merit" be initiated. Better homes, more Kindergartens, and public schools would not hasten results sufficiently. Woman's influence over fathers, brothers, husbands and sons must put forth its most gracious and indomitable power to make men see the better standard and use their best efforts to place the public interests in the keeping of true statesmen, whose private lives entitle them to the confidence of the people—men of patience, courage, dignity and personal integrity, who mourn the lack of noble principle in the high places of our nation, and are willing by conscientious and self-sacrificing labor, to serve their country from honorable motives, and not for the love of fame, or monetary aggrandizement.

Though untrammelled in social latitude, public sentiment discourages the American woman from seeking actual service in political affairs. It is not her privilege to cast a vote for reform, but she can restrain the demoralizing tendencies at the polls by proxy, and in all the relations of life she can, by precept and example, give precedence to those qualities of mind and heart which shall make every American citizen a champion of good government, from the home circle to the President's Cabinet.

MRS. A. E. SMITH.

Book Reviews.

IN "The School and Society," Mr. Dewey seems to have grasped the idea of model citizenship. These lectures show that since our social life has undergone a thorough and radical change in the last century, it is absolutely necessary that the school and the child's life should be adapted to these existing conditions for the highest development of character and genius. He devotes a chapter to the description of the University Elementary School which is in his charge. His method makes the school the connecting link between the home and the university, and teaches the child to use in school what it learns at home, and what is acquired in the school is mere preparation for special training in some definite direction. This book will prove of great value to all mothers, teachers and every one interested in the training and development of character. In reading this little volume one longs to have had such ideal training, and feels that with such a method she could surely make the most of her opportunities. (Cloth, 75 cents. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill.)

"THE Domestic Blunders of Women," by a Mere Man, although very recently published, savors of the conditions that existed at least thirty years ago. To say the least, the author's experience with women has been limited to very ignorant and incompetent ones, and sincere sympathy should be extended to him for his domestic environment. What an idea—that a man should expect to have an income from his home as well as from his office! Who can say that business capacity or good taste, either one is found only among men? What quality is restricted wholly to one sex?

The book is unique, and does well to while away a few hours, but certainly gives no practical advice to the modern trained woman. The correspondence at the end of the volume shows the writer where he is at fault. (Cloth, \$1.50. Funk & Wagnall's Company, New York.)

"ROBERTS' Rules of Order" seems to be the Manual best suited to the needs of all presiding officers. Practically the same as Cushing, its rules are given in a simpler and more popular form, yet more technical than in Shattuck's Manual. Since "Roberts' Rules" has been adopted as the standard authority for the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, it would be well for all South Carolina club women to make themselves acquainted with its pages. (Cloth, 75 cents. Scott, Foresman & Co., Chicago.)

THE price of Mrs. Ellett's "Women of the Revolution," has been raised to \$3.00.

"**MOTHERS' Jewels**," a collection of miscellaneous poems, selected by Charlotte Palmer Capers, has been sent us with the compliments of the compiler. The collection made by a mother appeals to every mother's heart, and as she explains, the poems have been gathered from many sources, principally newspapers. Mrs. Capers says: "I publish them with the hope that they may comfort some bereaved heart, as they have mine, in days of sorrow, now long past." "**Mothers' Jewels**" is a lovely addition to any mother's library, a book indeed into which a daily peep will bring a thought of either joy or comfort. In many of our scrap books we have pasted the same jewels of thought, and Mrs. Capers' idea of printing the collection in book form is a happy one. The volume can be had of the Bryan Printing Company, Columbia, S. C.

THE Bryan Printing Company, of Columbia, S. C., deserve great credit for the beautiful manner in which they have gotten out "**A Genealogical History**," by Colonel Cadwallader Jones. This volume contains many interesting illustrations of portraits and miniatures, and is quite an addition to the Genealogical History of South Carolina.

"**How to Become a Trained Nurse**," by Jane Hodson, is a valuable aid to all young women expecting to enter this profession. It contains several chapters of good advice to the beginner, and gives in detail an account of all the leading hospitals in Canada and the United States. The biographies of noted nurses are inspiring to the would-be nurse, and the illustrations add reality to the facts stated. (Cloth, postage prepaid, \$1.15. Wm. Abbott, 281 Fifth Avenue, New York.)

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M. MARKS & SONS,
CHARLESTON, S. C.

THE following books have been received, and will be reviewed in the next issue of The Keystone:

Charles Scribners' Sons.

"Unleavened Bread," by Robert Grant.

"Red Blood and Blue," by Harrison Robertson.

Doubleday, Page & Co.

"The Voice of the People," by Ellen Glasgow.

Lothrop Publishing Co.

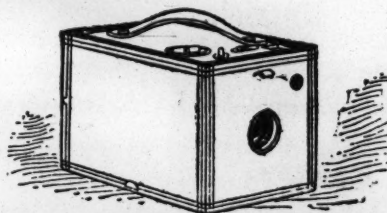
"Concerning Cats," by Helen M. Winslow.

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